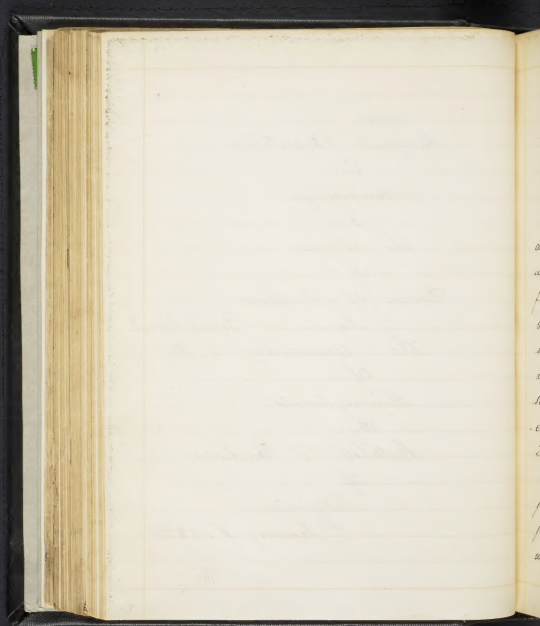


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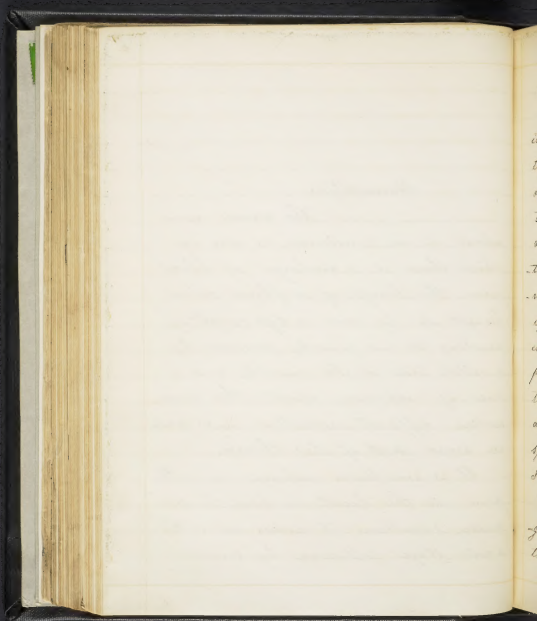
An
Inaugural Dissertation
On
Haemoptysis
For
The Degree
Of
Doctor of Medicine
In Paper March
The University 4: 1829
Of
Pennsylvania
By
Cuthbert D. Bacham
Of
Virginia
January 1st 1829



Haemoptysis.

The disease now about to be considered, is one in which there is a discharge of blood from the lungs, of a florid colour, brought up by more or less coughing, hawking &c; and generally preceded by a saltish taste in the mouth, and a sense of oppression about the praecordia, difficult respiration, and pain in some part of the thorax.

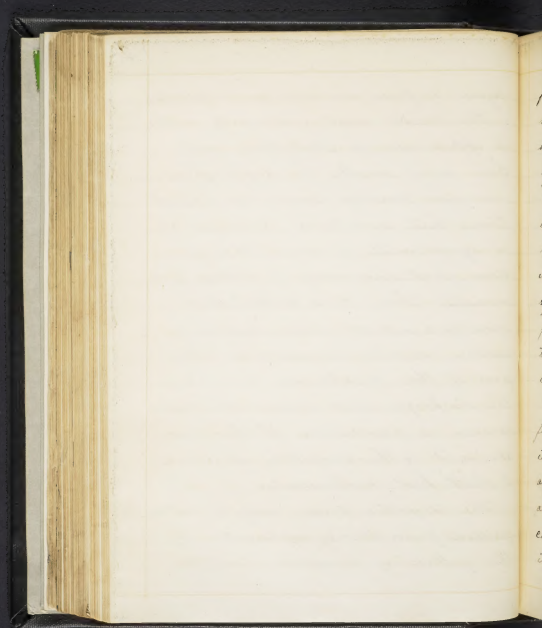
It is sometimes ushered in with pain in the breast, a hard, chorded pulse; sometimes it comes on with a cold stage, followed by some



degree of fever and ends in perspiration.

The disease most commonly makes its appearance as idiopathic, and then may usually be suppressed, and even finally cured in a short time; but sometimes it comes on as symptomatic of some other affection, most commonly of phthisis pulmonalis; then it is to be looked upon as a violent disease, and every exertion should be used on the part of the practitioner to suppress the discharge, and remove the cause as soon as practicable. Of the two species, it is the idiopathic, of which I shall treat particularly.

The idiopathic form, may be distinguished from the symptomatic, by the following symptoms; in the



first, there is generally more fever, more general excitement, and not so much pain in the thorax; again, it may be distinguished sometimes by a knowledge of the exciting cause; the idiopathic is most commonly brought on by some external exciting cause, whereas the symptomatic is the result of some peculiarity in the organization of the pulmonary apparatus, and constitution generally.

Hæmoptysis is readily distinguished from hæmatemesis; in the last, blood is thrown up in larger quantities, and is of a darker colour; it is also sometimes mixed with the contents of the stomach, and it is commonly the case also, that



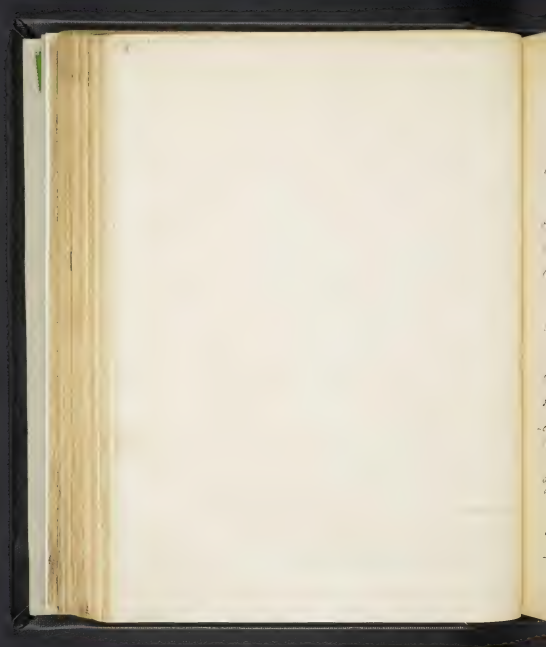
it is unattended by any cough; on the contrary, blood proceeding from the lungs, comes up in small quantities, of a more florid colour, commonly mixed with frothy matter, and is brought up by coughing, hawking &c.

This disease frequently comes on between the ages of fifteen and thirty years, or about the time the body is acquiring its full development; why the disease takes place at this particular period, I am unable to explain, nor have I ever seen, a satisfactory explanation given; it was the opinion of Dr. Cullen, that the lungs were the organs which gave precedence to all others in

haec of deceleration and that
 there was generally an excessive
 quantity of blood determined
 to those hysterical organs, consequen-
 tly nature resorted to that
 means of relieving the irritated
 viscus, and the system in general.

The ancients thought it to be
 a salutary operation of nature,
 and therefore endeavoured to in-
 crease, rather than suppress
 the discharge, but haply for
 humanity, the moderns have
 innovated on such dangerous,
 and indiscriminating measures.

Causes The exciting causes of this
 disease are various: such as violent
 exertion, weeping, running, screaming,
 or cold; singing, blowing wind



instruments, and many others of a similar nature; since its frequent occurrence amongst musicians who receive their wages & real deal.

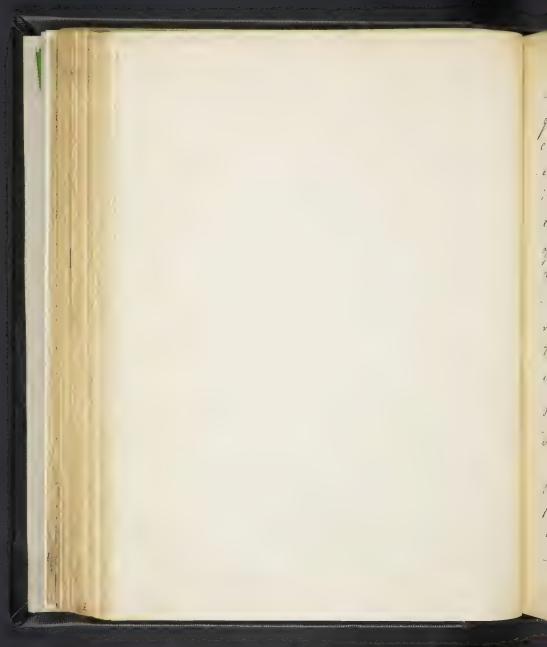
It is also brought on by illness on the breast or back, falls, certain allures of the body, excesses of temperatures either hot or cold, breathing air so much rarefied as not to expand the lungs sufficiently, very often produce this affection, an excessive use of stimulating liquors have a tendency to the same end?

I believe it is pretty generally viewed on a more reactionless that it is arterial blood, though it is not settled, whether it proceeds from rupture, or anastomosis;



in the system. But it may be
 caused by a local, as well as something
 in the system, as the use of the local
 vessels of the lungs, when there
 is any other part of the system
 affected, & therefore in all the
 diseases that it proceeds from
 causes which are violent
 & slow to the body, such as
 poisons, it is as in the other
 cases that it proceeds from
 effusion, when the body is
 exposed to excessive heat, vio-
 lent fatigue, and some other
 exciting causes.

Prognosis. Our prognosis with
 regard to this disease must be
 formed differently, according as
 it may occur as a symptomatic



or idiopathic disease; it very frequently occurs as a precursor of consumptions, & some other diseases equally terrible. Though it is not always a symptomatic disease. When it occurs in consequence of some violence having been done to the patient, not having died or followed by cough, and no hair left in any part of the thorax, it may be looked upon as of little importance, and from which there is little danger to be apprehended.

But on the contrary, when the patient can attribute it to no particular cause, when it comes on with some, or all the symptoms enumerated above, such



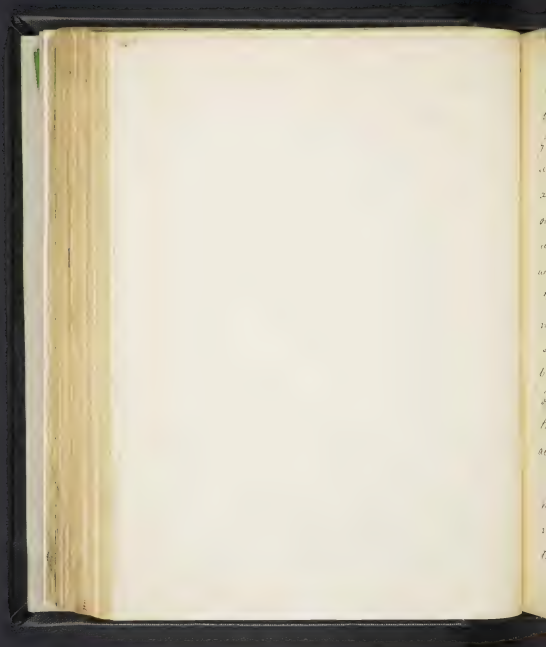
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as sallow look in the mouth,
pain in the breast, cough,
some degree of fever, and also
sweated in the face & back
of these, there are many indications
upon it as a hostile disease;
and if not timely arrested
it will run on to something
very alarming.

Treatment. On entering on the
treatment, we find some to be
a quick strong, and best pulse;
the practitioner should feel no
hesitation in administering
-blisters from the general sys-
-tem; and also use cupping either
in some small part of the
thorax by leeches, or scarifica-
-tions and cups particularly



if there be pain in that part.

By early resorting to this invaluable remedy, we may probably avoid the hemorrhages, & as it is more certain than except some little cathartic, bleeding in this case upon the principle of eversion, that is by drawing the blood from the distended to the more superficial vessels, thereby lessening the irritation of the blood in the heart, and large arteries, and relieving the congested viscera. But should this remedy not have the desired effect, we must resort to antispasmodics, such as camomile salt, a tea spoonful taken in the morning, and afterwards to



issue, or a solution of alum,
to the amount of eight or ten
grains in a small quantity of
water, may be given i. s. s. s.
acetic acid in the dose
of two grains, and from that
up to ten or twelve, combined
with a small quantity of opium,
to command its action, is in
most cases a great service.

In using astringents, we should
pay particular regard to the state
of the patient, and only use
them when there is considerable
action in the sanguiferous system.

If the above remedies should
not command the bleeding, we
may under due limitations, resort
to emetics; as the bleeding has
over,



may proceed from anastomosis,
or may be caused by rupture
of a large vessel, being then throm-
botic, emetics may then probably
be inappropriate, and would some-
times prove dangerous; but com-
ing from the intestines, not? it
tender with some degree of
dyspepsia, there is no doubt
but that they may be classed among
the most valuable remedies with
which we are acquainted. Their
action is very intelligible, and even
of explanation; they act by relax-
ing the stomach, and taking some
degree of absorption from the lungs,
and also from their cathartic
tendency, they force the blood
towards the surface, and relieve



~~these~~ pulmonary vessels of their
engorgement. In this respect they
act upon the same principle as the
letting.

Ligature is a medicine of
value in this class of diseases, and
one which may be resorted to in
almost every case; where there is
too much excitement in the
heart and arteries; of this medicine,
we may give twenty or twenty-five
drops of the tincture and in a alarming
case even more.

Blisters to the breast I think might
be resorted to, and will prove of
considerable service, when there is
pain, cough, and expectoration,
independent of the hæmorrhage.

After having premised some



other general remedies. Sineapisms, or blisters, applied to the extremities would add considerably to any other means of relief.

When the disease has run on so as to produce much debility, we must then resort to Lonicin; among these, the mercurial tincture of iron holds precedence and should be given in the dose of ten or fifteen drops, three or four times in the day.

We should at the same time keep the bowels open with some mild cathartic, such as cream of tartar, Epsom salts, "water cile", or something of the kind.

While using the foregoing remedies, the patient should be exposed to the cool air, and all

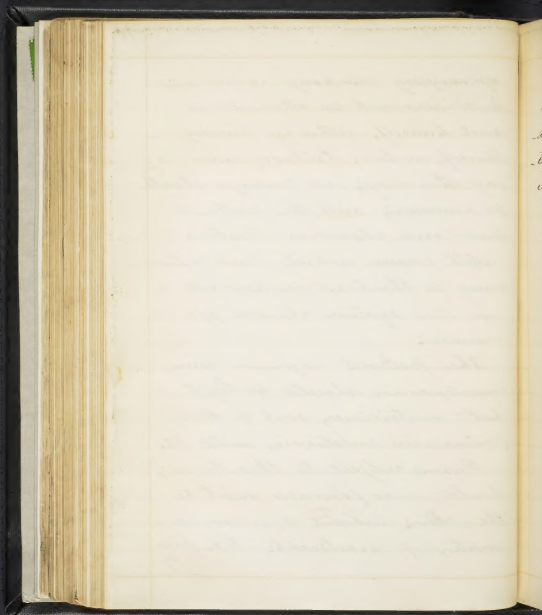


unnecessary company excluded; he should not be allowed to exert himself, either by turning himself in bed, talking, or in any other way; all bandages should be removed, and the patients head and shoulders elevated.

All causes which have a tendency to the least excitement in the system should be removed.

The patients regimen during convalescence, should be light but nutritious, such as the farinaceous substances, milk &c.

Persons subject to this disease, should wear flannel next to the skin; inhabit a warm climate, if practicable; take plenty



of exercise on horseback, though
not to such an extent as to in-
duce fatigue. Persons thus affec-
ted should observe prudence
in any thing.

